Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A computer-implemented method for concurrently accepting parameters in at least two contexts, the method comprising:

accepting a keystroke sequence comprising at least one keystroke, each keystroke having a first value, and at least a subset of the keystrokes having a second value;

determining whether the keystroke sequence produces a valid result in a first context;

responsive to the keystroke sequence producing a valid result in the first context, outputting first feedback, the first feedback indicating keystroke input according to the first context;

responsive to the keystroke sequence not producing a valid result in the first context:

determining whether the keystroke sequence produces a valid result in a second context; and

responsive to the keystroke sequence producing a valid result in the second context, outputting second feedback, the second feedback indicating keystroke input according to the second context.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   responsive to the keystroke sequence producing a valid result in the first

3   context, performing a first operation corresponding to the first

4   context, using the first value for each keystroke.

1   3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   responsive to the keystroke sequence producing a valid result in the sec-

3   ond context, performing a second operation corresponding to

4   the second context, using the second value for each keystroke.

1   4. The method of claim 1, wherein:

2   the first feedback indicates the first value for each keystroke; and

3   the second feedback indicates the second value for each keystroke.

1   5. The method of claim 1, wherein the first feedback comprises visual

2 feedback and the second feedback comprises visual feedback.

1   6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   responsive to the keystroke sequence not producing a valid result in the

3   first context and in the second context, outputting an invalidity

4   indicator.

1   7. The method of claim 6, wherein outputting an invalidity indicator com-

2 prises outputting an auditory invalidity indicator.

1   8. The method of claim 6, wherein outputting an invalidity indicator com-

2 prises outputting a visual invalidity indicator.

1   9. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the contexts comprises

2 accepting input for a directory filtering operation on a plurality of directory re-

3 cords.

1   10. The method of claim 9, wherein the first context comprises accepting

2 input for a directory filtering operation on a plurality of directory records.

1   11. The method of claim 10, wherein the directory filtering operation is it-

2 erative.

1   12. The method of claim 10, further comprising:

2 responsive to the keystroke sequence producing a valid result in the first

3   context, performing the directory filtering operation using the

4   first value for each of the accepted keystrokes.

1   13. The method of claim 10, further comprising:

2 responsive to the keystroke sequence producing a valid result in the first

3   context, performing the directory filtering operation using the

4   accepted keystrokes;